A Sketch of the Autumnal Fever, as it prevailed in the Town of Fredericksburg, Virg^a. 1821

being an

Inaugural Dissertation,

presented to

The Provost, and Medical Faculty

of the

University of Pennsylvania,

for the degree of

M. D.

by James Cooke.

No 5 - 4th 6th
Mrs Lincoln

Novr. 14th 1821.

Cust

=date for a

to which t

usual form

causes, sym

When

of personal

the Student

=ations, (and

the medica

be obvious, t

=ily drawn

recollect, tha

even on the

=ently contra

of astonishm

under those

digested; or a

Actuate

=pronounced in th

Custom has generally influenced the candi-
-date for a Medical degree, to select some disease
to which the human frame is liable; and in the
usual form adopted by medical writers, to give the
causes, symptoms, prophylactics, and cure.

When we consider the very limited means
of personal observation, that present themselves to
the Student of medicine, especially in country situ-
-ations, (and the greater number of those who attend
the medical Lectures, are of this description:) it must
be obvious, that their ideas on the subject are necessa-
-rily drawn from the writings of others; and when we
recollect, that in the various authors (who ~~[illegible]~~ write,
even on the same diseases) there are a number of appa-
-rently contradictory statements; it cannot be a matter
of astonishment, that most of the dissertations presented
under those disadvantages, should be crude, and ill-
digested; or at best, but bad compilations -

Actuated by those considerations, I have endea-
-voured in the present sketch, to give an account

of some
=ate obse
of the Fa
may me

made in
=icksburg,
=cise view

on the Do
about one
rises about
considerab
most thick
from the i
leaves a la
in many
from our D
process, freq
=sive chara

of some things which fallen under my own immediate observance; and trust that the known liberality of the Faculty, will excuse the imperfections they may meet with.

As my observations were principally made in the Town, and neighbourhood of Fredericksburg, Virginia; I shall endeavour to give a concise view of its situation &c. &c.

The Town of Fredericksburg is situated on the South bank of the Rappahannock River, about one mile below the head of Tide water; the Tide rises about two or four feet at high water; influenced considerably however, by the direction of the wind: The most thickly inhabited part is considerably removed from the wharves, so that when the Tide retires, it leaves a large surface exposed; chiefly of dark mud; in many places mixed with the filth thrown out from our Lots, which undergoing the putrefactive process, frequently emits an effluvia of a very offensive character; in addition to this, the carcases of

many of
or and de
of our fa
the shore
=tioned, a
=greable: a
some place
(produce d
the purpo
=in a few
direction, a
strip of La
fifty to eig
and south
tract runs
another at
it discharg
below the c
about a m
and meets

many of our domestic animals, (which die naturally, or are destroyed by Law;) are, from the defective state of our police, permitted to remain exposed along the shore, and combined with the causes before mentioned, renders a residence near the River, very disagreeable: Towards the Northwest of the Town, and in some places, even within its limits, a range of ponds, (produced originally, by a removal of the Earth, for the purpose of Brick making.) stretch across, from within a few hundred yards of the River; in a Westerly direction, until they fall in with a large, marshy strip of Land; the breadth of which, is about, from fifty to eighty yards; and which forms the western, and southern, boundary of the Town: through this tract runs a small stream, which empties itself into another at the lower extremity of the place, and with it discharges into the River about a quarter of a mile below the Town: This low piece of Land extends itself about a mile beyond the upper limits of the Town, and meets with the River, which makes a consider-

=able bend
opinion of
=formed ca
the bed, of
=tion now
Island:

B
vast num
make the
our Fruit
=ticularly
large num
when they
=gain retur
August, p
=mented; a
=ery species
=crated on
Poplars, t
completely

able bend to the west, in that situation: It is the opinion of many of our most respectable, and best informed citizens, that this strip of Land once formed the bed, of a branch of the River; and that the position now occupied by the Town, was originally an Island:

Between the first and middle of June, 1821 vast numbers of white, furzy Caterpillars, began to make their appearance in our gardens, and among our Fruit trees; and committed great ravages, particularly among the Cabbages: They remained in large numbers, for about a fortnight, or three weeks, when they partially disappeared, and did not again return in full strength, until the month of August, when their numbers were considerably augmented; and a consequent destruction of almost every species of vegetation ensued: Our streets are decorated on each side, with stately rows of Lombardy Poplars; these they soon seized on, and in a few week completely defoliated: This crop continued with us

about the
when about
Aurelia, be
ning on w

Abo
made their
they were a
annoying;
every exertion
s, from the b
xhibited the
this was par
posite the To
nock Rivers.

Q
dew reafum
and Fruit T
tation of every

The
the Summer

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

the Island altogether in the students in question in observations are derived from that source [illegible]— Frequent instances had under our notice of families, in which not more than two, out of six or seven were sufficiently well to attend the funeral; and in some cases the whole family were confined and totally unable to render each other any assistance whatever.

This fever which was in existence in its progress was, as before, remarked of a bilious character but exhibited variable in its form, assuming various shades, described by writers on fevers of the many situations: In some, the double tertian, so ably described by Dr Cleghorn in his account of the fevers of Minorca, manifested itself with a chill towards night, and at other hours in the [illegible] of [illegible] aque; every afternoon coming on at various periods from 12 O Clock A.M. to 6 P.M. and terminating with sweat sometime in the night; and a complete intermission each forenoon: In others the fever made

[illegible] it [illegible] [illegible] to the
[illegible] and the [illegible] was [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] in perspiration, but men [illegible] the
[illegible] turned [illegible], the eye, and in [illegible] the
morning [illegible], it rose again with a [illegible]
[illegible] commencing at eight [illegible], and continued
with [illegible] until late in the afternoon when a
profuse perspiration terminated the paroxysm and
an intermission followed, which continued through
the night, and until that period ~~on~~ the next day
at which it had made its appearance on the first.

These were the chief forms, particularly the latter,
which it assumed, but the anomalous types of
they can hitherto be called types were numerous;
we sometimes had the ague or chill at dark,
succeeded by fever, ~~and~~ terminating in several hours
in morning and the apyrexia continuing through
the day. On some the whole force of the disease
turned on the bowels, showing itself in cholera mor-
bus, with vast evacuations of bilious matter at

with increase of heat on the surface, [illegible] the circulation. [illegible] continues without a return, though with the same tendency to the [illegible] condition. At this time, the [illegible] [illegible] about ten or twelve minims [illegible] given in the form of [illegible] medicine [illegible] was not [illegible] for a time, on the case becoming [illegible] on the ninth day. I shall take this opportunity of remarking that, although the tendency [illegible] a most distressing [illegible], until a short time before his death it was completely checked, by the administration of the Veratrum Viride, the case [illegible] [illegible] in which three doses were given. This was, however, [illegible] and the patient [illegible] continued [illegible] of his [illegible] [illegible]

and slight mental derangement, to pass a [illegible] [illegible] and unusually irritable and very fidgety not finding [illegible] [illegible] contented with either situation until [illegible] again. In this [illegible] the [illegible] in which [illegible]; [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] night until far in the night the next afternoon, [illegible] became again worse, and continued through the night and until towards morning the next night; the wandering was however slight, and he always appeared rational when his attention was [illegible], directed by the attendants, to some one subject: little [illegible] was ever present in this case, until the disease yielded to the remedies employed. In one case [illegible] occurring late in the disease [illegible] [illegible], it is marked by a violent pain in the right hypochondrium which was so severe as to ~~[illegible]~~ make the patient actually scream out on pressing the hand, as [illegible] a [illegible] very much that of the Delirium. In one instance the [illegible] of the disease was [illegible] [illegible] in the stomach;

this was a case of relapse from a very severe attack of regular intermittent: on his [illegible]
the [illegible] of [illegible]
it [illegible], and for two or twelve days
longer, his diet consisted almost entirely of boiled
water, beef tea and other light food; most [illegible]
[illegible] but the marked abhorrence of food
[illegible] the most [illegible] and natural
in the shape of the food or any of the [illegible] [illegible]
case terminated favourably.

[illegible] and obstinate nausea; and efforts
to [illegible] attended not a few of the cases, [illegible] in
[illegible] heard in a crowded [illegible] even in the
wards of the hospitals. In a problem [illegible]
in time must seem an inversion of the constitutive
motion of the [illegible] thinking [illegible] matter
of an [illegible], and [illegible] character [illegible] the
[illegible] the [illegible], though much shaking [illegible] the
a [illegible] injection of [illegible], he [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] that [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible]

unchanged; by the latter theory, the febrile and offensive vapours had a tendency effect in retarding evolution; but the former was found wanting by large and repeated doses of bark. Blisters were tried, but in our hands devoid of any, or the other efficacy in other cases. Thus it, however, rather antecedating the paroxysm in the case which will more hereafter form an enlarged and more particular description of the symptoms.

The domestic which immediately the acute attacks of this fever, were such as usually present themselves in febrile, so it has in intermittent fevers of our climate; there were, however, some peculiarities in my patients as a moment's that exist that in this our observation, which deserve notice:

The pain in the head was rather peculiar, it was very acute, attended with a sensation of throbbing and tingling in the ears.

not mattered in a great measure, in the
effusion of the blood of the Son, no doubt
of the assistance it is assuming accordingly
determined to the heart: but we venture
to assign a cause for this heart-rent, inadequate
of determination to the heart; which was
undoubtedly present in some degree at
sound to be in mass of it during the ex-
-ecution. we would attribute it to a sym-
-pathetic connexion between the heart, the
spleen, and the liver, not more intimate
than between the former and other viscera.
we are led to this by the fact that in every one instance in which we
have had reason to suppose the spleen in some
degree injured, the heart also was affected, and
in a case to which we have had access, the
heart was a mere membrane or sac, yet the
viscid mass contained within it was as
soluble in water, intermingled with coffee grounds,

[illegible] and within [illegible]: [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] : this was [illegible] [illegible] was [illegible] in the liver; [illegible] dissolved in water and [illegible] on the [illegible] white [illegible] and the deep orange colour of [illegible], and the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] with [illegible] green matter, and a substance [illegible] [illegible] of the [illegible] and consistence of the yolks of Eggs.

Another [illegible] of this [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]; [illegible] found in [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] intimately the fluid.

[illegible] this [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] the

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] the [illegible] of the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [

[illegible] of the disease

[illegible] Quinine [illegible] liberally administrated [illegible] in the treatment [illegible] recommended to a great extent [illegible] the medical gentlemen [illegible] the treatment of the disease. It not agreeing with us in their hands we had no opportunity of examining [illegible] However, much caution was necessary to guard against its bad effects. when recommended [illegible] the system was sufficiently prepared to receive it, in several cases in which we employed it during the symptoms in the return of the fever were much aggravated, particularly the head-ache and burning sensation of the [illegible] accompanied with great restlessness and anxiety, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Calomel [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] with [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]